

MaineCare Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2022
10:00 a.m. to 11:55 a.m.
Via Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio called to order the regular meeting of the MaineCare Advisory Committee at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 1st.

II. ROLL CALL

Kathy Kilrain del Rio conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Kathy Kilrain del Rio; Laurie Belden; Esther Bullard; Rachel Collamore; Laura Cordes; Leo Delicata; Gia Drew; Al Durgin; Rachel Dyer; Mark Eves; Suzanne Farley; Kalie Hess; Jillian Jolicoeur; Sarah Lewis; Jim Martin; Vickie McCarty; Atlee Reilly; Dee Sabattus; Jeff Tiner, and Susan White.

Department: Fran Jensen; Shannon Martin; Jenny Patterson; Michelle Probert, and Molly Slotznick.

Guests: Sharlene Adams; Alex Carter; Elizabeth Cameron; Kate Ende; Rita Furlow Cathy Hamilton; Shelby Kana; Becca Matusovich, and Malory Shaughnessy.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a.) DHHS Updates With Michelle Probert

- An updated OFI My Maine Connection platform will be launching sometime this summer.
- The public health emergency has been extended through mid-April. The enhanced Federal match the Department receives will go through the end of June.

b.) Rate System Updates

a. MaineCare Updates

- An e-message outlining the details of the Part AAAA Rate Adjustment was issued on January 31st. The biennial budget did not fully fund what is needed to get to 125% of minimum wage, so the Department is asking the legislature for additional dollars to fulfill the intent of AAAA. Increases will be retroactive to January 1, 2022.

The Department is not able to turn the new rates on until additional dollars are secured.

- The question was posed as to when the Department expects final funding. Michelle noted it is a priority for the Governor's Office, but we do not have an estimate at this time.
- Sections 2, 17, 26, 28, and 65 will receive supplemental 'ramp' payments. Providers of these services will get a set monthly amount for the calendar year as a whole. Payment amounts will vary by provider: the Department will allocate the full amounts appropriated by the legislature for each section of policy to providers proportional to revenue they received for services under each section from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021.
- The Department will conduct rate studies for these sections during calendar year 2022 to determine appropriate ongoing rate adjustments to be effective January 1, 2023 to ensure that the labor components of these rates are equal to at least 125 percent of minimum wage.
- The Department is adopting rules and seeking approvals from CMS for these payments. The monthly ramp payments will be effective retroactive to January 2022, and the Department will provide them as soon as possible; however, they are not yet in effect.
- Malory asked if there is any way the bonuses could be paid out after March, as the timeframe is so short at this point. Michelle will take the question back.

b. Rate System Bill Overview: LD1867

- The bill will provide clear process for rate studies.
- The bill also contains provisions around the annual cost of living adjustment for each service.
- The focus is to have rulemaking when there is a change in methodology or benchmarking.
- Cathy Hamilton asked if the proposed bill would replace the rate setting recommendations that came from Myers and Stauffer. She is concerned that industry supply chain impacts, combined with the proposed rate reduction, would cripple DME providers. Michelle noted the bill is intended to put forth a process and structure for informing those decisions, but it is not specific to any service.

c. Subcommittee Updates

The Rate committee would like an update next month on the Department's Rate Reform Plan

c.) **Rulemaking/Waivers/SPA Updates With Jenny Patterson**

- Jenny noted comment periods have closed for several rules, including Chapter I, the three PCPlus rules, Section 21, and the Estate Recovery rule. Forthcoming rules will include adopting Section 65, and working on developing the dental benefit for adult dental. Work is also underway on school health related services.

d) **Rounding Rule**

- The question was posed as to whether the Department can provide training for providers on the rounding rule. Molly noted there will be training, but the Department will hold off on scheduling that training until the rule is formally adopted.

e) **Communications Update With Shannon Martin**

- Shannon Martin noted the launch of the new e-message system is set for February 14th. There will be a two week overlap of the old and new systems from 2/14/22 through 2/28/22. Providers will be prompted to subscribe to the new system.
- Messages will be going out via the old list as well as the new one for the two week trial run period.
- Kathy asked if it would be possible for providers who work with members to subscribe to the member list . Shannon noted that it will be possible to receive member updates.

g.) **Items From Guests.**

None

h.) **Wrap Up**

- The next MAC meeting will be Tuesday, March 1st at 10:00 a.m.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Weaver